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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

MANUAL OF AVIATION LAW, by Anne Mathes and Theodore Mattern. (Oceana Publications, 43 W. 16th St. New York. 1952. 95 pp. \$1 paper, \$2 cloth.)

It is quite obvious that this little ninety-five page book (one of the Legal Almanac series) cannot cover the field of aviation law in such a way that the law library of the practicing attorney could consist solely of this book. However, there are other purposes that it might serve not only adequately but highly effectively. Because of its generality and brevity it might be suggested as reading for newcomers to flying, either adult or student.

In a short chapter of four pages (Chap. II) the authors have captured much of the history of the development of aviation law — international, national and state. The authors' interesting citation of the *Causby* case states, "The opinion . . . shows a definite trend, if not a final decision, challenging the validity of state sovereignty in the navigable air space. This trend seems to be based on the argument that complete and exclusive national control of the navigable air space is necessary to the nation as a member of the family of nations."

The chapters on Airmen and Airways and Airmarkers are likewise informative but the former, of course, should not be relied upon as the final word since administrative regulations are constantly in a state of change. Chapter V, Airports, briefly informs the reader of the purposes of the Federal Airport Act and then goes into the legal problems of airports (see article by Pogue and Bell on p. . . . of this issue) i.e. the acquisition of land, zoning, and the rights of adjoining property owners.

Chapter VI on Air Traffic Rules contains, in readable form, important information from Part 60 of the Civil Air Regulations and contains a map showing Air Defense Identification Zones (ADIZ). Chapters VII and VIII on Aircraft and Air Carriers respectively, are informative but perhaps excessively brief. Chapter IX provides the reader a bit more information on international law with a summary of the Warsaw and Chicago Conventions and the requirements for international flights. Likewise Chapter X on State Legislation supplements the material presented in Chapter II on the development of air law. Combining the material in these various chapters might have made for more comprehensive accounts.

While it is not a serious matter, the authors may cause some confusion by using the initials IATA to refer to the International Air Transport Agreement since the initials are more familiarly known in connection with the International Air Transport Association, the world-wide organization of scheduled airlines that operate internationally.

The remainder of the book offers a series of charts on aircraft registration, airport legislation, flight legislation and fuel taxes and a selected list of government publications for further study.

Again it should be said that this booklet on air law is not for the attorney but for the man who feels that he might profit from a general knowledge of the subject, or for school use where the student may begin to acquire his knowledge of air law.

C. T. L.